

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3069

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG TU

SUBJECT: LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN-TUNISIAN NEWS

1. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN "INFILTRATORS" IN THE LIBYAN PRESS MARCH 16, AND BOTH DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN DEPORTING NUMBERS OF EGYPTIAN AND TUNISIAN WORKERS, THOUGH ON DIFFERENT GROUNDS. ONE PAPER CARRIES GRUESOME PICTURE OF MUTILATED BODIES, SAID TO BE THOSE OF LIBYAN KILLED BY AN EGYPTIAN WORKER GONE BESERK; THE SECOND DAILY, IN CONTRAST, CARRIES A PHOTO SUPPLEMENT WITH PICTURES OF EGYPTIANS AND TUNISIANS MAKING THEIR WAY ON FOOT ACROSS LIBYAN BORDERS, PIOUSLY MAKING THE POINT THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO STOP SUCH UNCONTROLLED FLIGHT FROM POVERTY.

2. THE PRESS ALSO CARRIES THE TEXT OF AN RCC DECREE EXPELLING MUHAYSHI FROM THE COUNCIL BECAUSE HE "HAD LOST THE CONFIDENCE AND ESTEEM REQUIRED OF RCC MEMBERS". WHILE THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE, IN VIEW OF MUHAYSHI'S CAIRO MEMOIRS, IT REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A TURNABOUT FOR QADHAFI, WHO TOLD THE NATIONAL CONGRESS IN JANUARY THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE RCC WAS FOR LIFE.

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CARLE

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